

Good Neighborly News

Issue 3

Neighborhood Watch Publication

Summer

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains:
Please distribute this information to your block participants.

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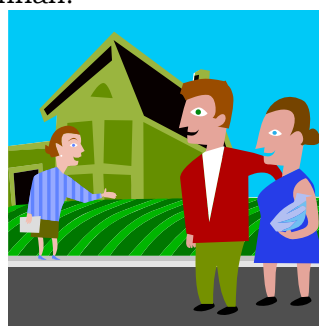
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The Crime Prevention Unit's mission is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it

The 4 Principles of Neighborhood Safety

Adapted from "SafeScape: Creating Safer, More Livable Communities Through Planning and Design" by Al Zelinka and Dean Brennan.

These 4 principles are human factors that can help us control, monitor and manage our neighborhoods, raising our feeling of safety and security and reducing the risk of crime.



Principle 1: Information and Orientation

Knowing where you are and the ability to find your way around is important. Especially for outsiders it is necessary to have a sense of where they are going and where they do not belong.

This principle applies to single-family detached homes or multi-family communities. This includes community signs identifying the development, directional signs showing the way to community areas, clear house numbers, and of course Neighborhood Watch signs.

This principle helps to give a community control of their streets, a clear and unique identity and prevents outsiders from wandering aimlessly, becoming lost.

Principle Two: Socialization and Interaction

Do you know your neighbors next door and across the street? How about a block away? Does your

neighborhood encourage neighbors to socialize and interact?

Creating a sense of community helps residents develop a feeling of proprietorship and enables them to play an important role in dealing with safety issues. Knowing your neighbors is the key to creating a sense of community, which is the most important element for making a neighborhood safer and more livable.

Principle Three: Stewardship and Ownership

How do you view your neighborhood? Is your house just a place you go to sleep? Is your current house just a stepping-stone to the next house? These attitudes foster a sense of abandonment in our communities. Our homes need to be viewed as an extension of ourselves and as an expression of our identity. When we make our homes unique to us, we feel better about our neighborhoods and begin to express a proprietorship that extends to the neighborhood past our homes. This expression of ownership reduces the public safety threats to our neighborhoods.

Principle Four: Seeing Being Seen

Fifty or sixty years ago neighborhoods were designed to use the front yard and the street as part of the



Crime Heats Up!

The summer heat is upon us! Did you know that much of summer residential crime is through no use of force? What? It means houses, garages, and even cars are being left open, unlocked and unsecured!

When it heats up it becomes even more tempting to leave our homes or cars with the windows open for ventilation for a minute or for all day.

This creates an **opportunity** for crime. A criminal can see the open window and it tempts them to see if they can easily get in and out undetected. Also, most newer houses will stay cooler if you leave the windows closed and the blinds shut. This way, you don't let the hot air in.

Help yourself and the Carlsbad Police Department by taking the time to shut and lock your doors and windows before you leave your home or vehicle, even if you will only be gone for a minute. And have fun in the sun!

The 4 Principles cont.

neighborhood. Residents commonly interacted on the front porch, sidewalk or at informal gatherings within the neighborhood.

In the 60's, 70's and 80's houses were designed to promote activity in the back of the house limiting the view of the front street. Commonly a resident would drive into the garage, close the door and never interact with the neighborhood. This enabled criminals to move about our communities undetected.

It is important to bring activities back to the front of the house, yard and sidewalks. If these activities become commonplace, non-residents will feel they are being observed while they are in our neighborhoods even if no one is at home.

What Have YOU Done for Your Neighborhood Lately?

Where we live is not just a building but also an extension of our life, our home. This is the place we spend our quality "down" time, where we invite our friends and raise our families. This focus should include our home, the boundaries of our community's development and out as far as the borders of our city.

Research shows that community spirit and neighborly behavior reduces the risk of residential crime. As you know this principle is the cornerstone of **"Neighborhood Watch."** Neighborhood Watch focuses on what you personally can do to reduce the risk of crime in your neighborhood, enhancing your quality of life.

Since you have joined Neighborhood Watch on your block, what difference have you made? What changes have you made to your lifestyle? What actions have you taken to promote good neighborly behavior? Everyone can make a difference but it takes

the recognition that changes are needed and a plan for action

We are not talking huge changes here. How many neighbors do you know by name? Each day or even each week pick a new neighbor and attempt to develop a neighborly bond. It all starts with learning their name and using it to start a conversation.

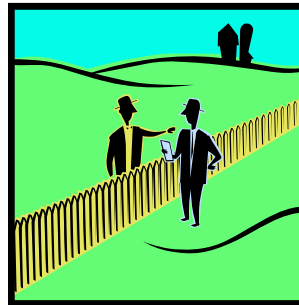
We all get many opportunities to initiate neighborly behavior i.e., at the mailboxes, in the driveway, on the sidewalk. It is as simple as talking about the weather. Get started!

Just by taking this first step we begin to learn the important details about our neighbors that bond us as community members and friends. This leads to looking after each other when we are gone, getting

the mail, picking up dropped newspapers and most importantly reporting suspicious activity.

It does not matter if you live in a detached home or an apartment. You are responsible for

developing positive activities in your neighborhood and taking action to eliminate unwanted activities. You cannot just assume someone else will handle it. We all play an important role in quality of life in our neighborhood. It starts by taking just one step. What will your step be today?



Did you know there is a difference between criminal and civil law? Police enforce criminal, state, and local codes and ordinances. Civil laws are enforced through legal processes by the courts. In a civil dispute the Police Department can only help by preserving the peace.